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Umno-Iraq

UMNO AND IRAQI RULING PARTY TO SIGN PACT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- Iraq's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party and Umno will sign a protocol of cooperation to strengthen relations.

Hamid Rashid Al-Rawi, a senior member of the Iraqi party, said the pact would enable the two parties to share their experiences for mutual benefit.

Speaking to reporters after calling on Umno secretary-general and Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat at the Umno headquarters today, Hamid said Arab Baath and Umno would also exchange visits by party delegations.

Hamid, who was accompanied by the Iraqi Ambassador Mohammed Rifat at the meeting, arrived four days ago to attend Umno's 50th anniversary celebration last Saturday.

He described his talks with Mohamed as very fruitful and excellent and will enhance the "very good" relations between Iraq and Malaysia.

Hamid said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz have conveyed their congratulations to Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Umno in conjunction with the party's golden jubilee.

Later, Mohamed received a courtesy call by the vice-president of the Democratic Action Party of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hussein Zivalj, and another senior member of the party, Gen Sakib Mahmuljin.

Hussein told reporters his party, headed by President Alija Izetbegovic, hopes to learn more about Umno and implement some of its strategies to face the country's September polls. -- BERNAMA

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